XXXIV. *An Account of the Blue Shark, together with a Drawing of the ſame.* *By* W. Watſon, *Jun. M. D. F. R. S.*

Read June 4, 1778.

THE fiſh from which the drawing was made was taken on the Coaſt of Devonſhire. It had got into ſhallow water, by which accident Mr. MARTIN, a very great lover of natural hiſtory, and who happened to be on the ſhore, was enabled to drag it out by the tail, and to kill it on the ſpot.

LINNÆUS places this animal in the claſs of amphibia, under the name of *ſqualus glaucus*, and makes uſe of ARTEDE's deſcription, viz. *ſqualus foſſula triangulari in extremo dorſo, foraminibus nullis ad oculos.* As this fiſh is well deſcribed by RONDELETIUS and others, I ſhall only ſubjoin the following remarks. There are two triangular dents at the origin of the tail, both above and below; that which is on the back is biggeſt and deepeſt. No orifices are to be ſeen behind the eyes, as is uſual with fiſhes of this *genus*. Two white membranes, one to each eye, perform the office of eye-lids. They are placed beneath under the external integuments, and move

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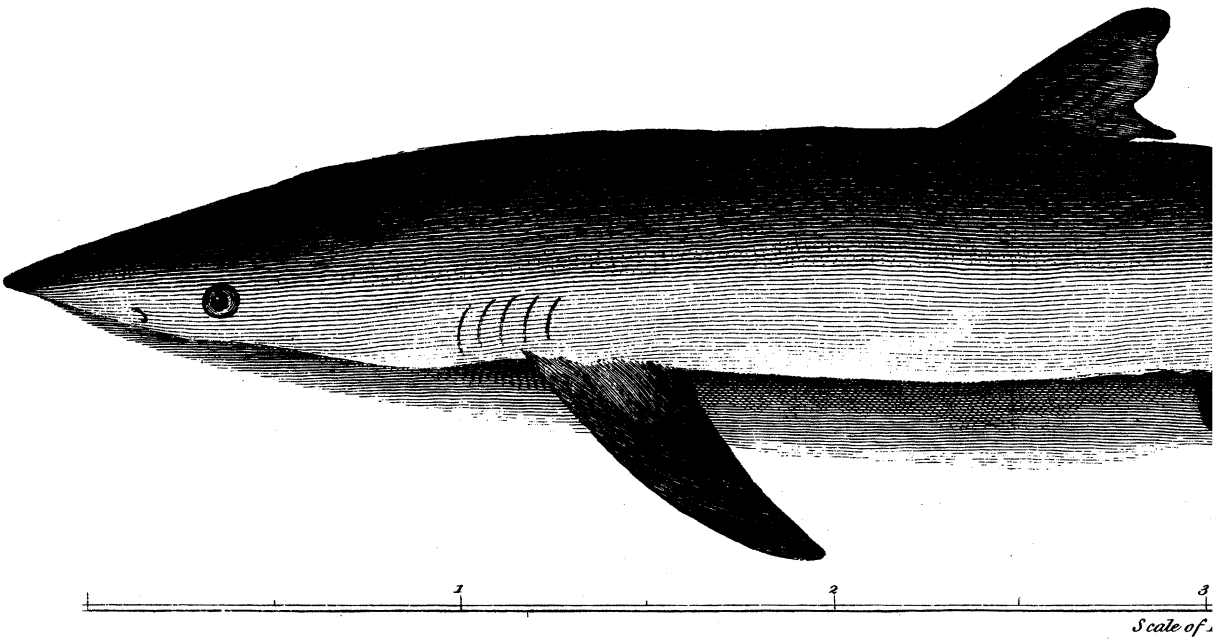
move upwards when they cover the eyes. It is furniſhed with five rows of teeth; theſe are triangular, and finely ſerrated[a]. The body is of a fine blue colour, dark on the back, lighter on the ſides; the belly and all the under part of the fiſh white; the fins and tail were of a dirty blue; the colour of the blue part is exactly repreſented by different ſhades of indigo blue. When the head was placed downwards, a pretty large white pouch came out of its mouth. ÆLIAN ſuppoſes this to have ſerved as an aſylum to its young brood in time of danger. The length of the fiſh from the tip of the noſe to the end of the tail was ſix feet eight inches; the length of the pectoral fin one foot four inches: the ſcale annexed to the drawing will give the meaſurement of the other parts. It was a female, and weighed fifty-five pounds. An outline of the under ſide of the head is added, in order to ſhew the ſituation of the mouth.

As I have never been able to ſee an accurate drawing of this fiſh, and as Mr. PENNANT, in his Britiſh Zoology, wiſhes a farther account may be given of it, I thought it not unworthy of the Society's notice. The fiſh itſelf was ſtuffed, and is now at the Britiſh Muſeum.

(a) I cannot aſcertain how many rows of teeth belonged to each jaw, they being ſeparated by boiling before they were properly examined.

Squalus Gla



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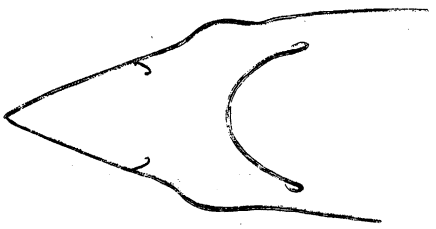

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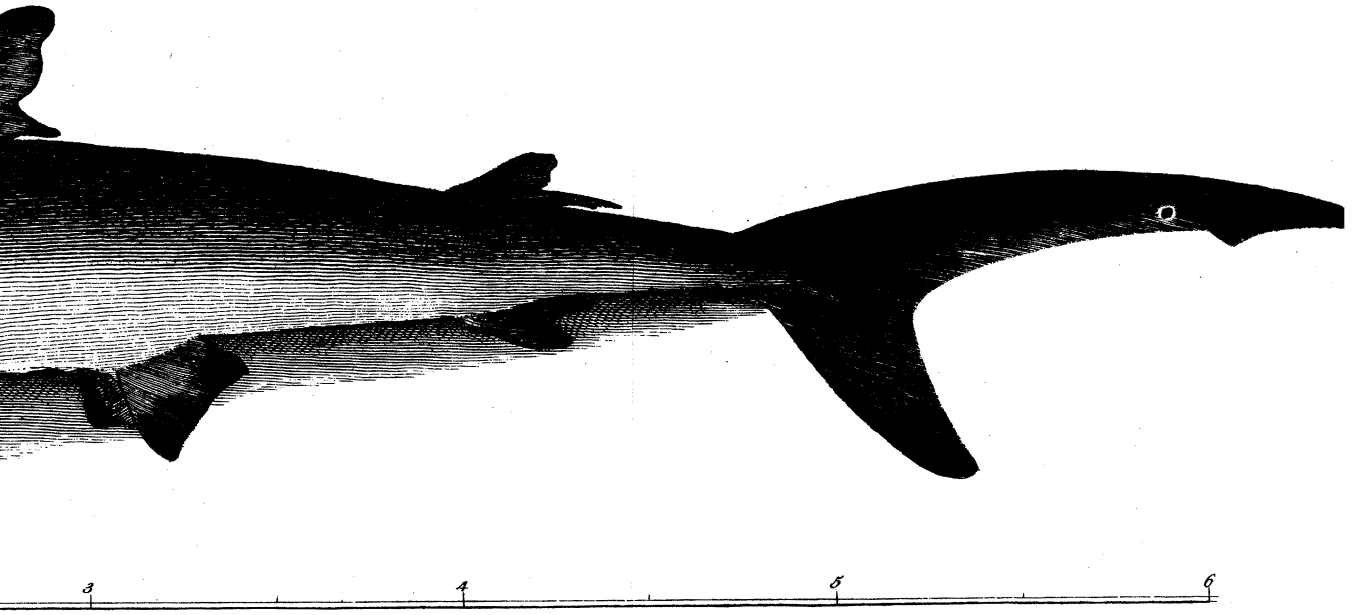

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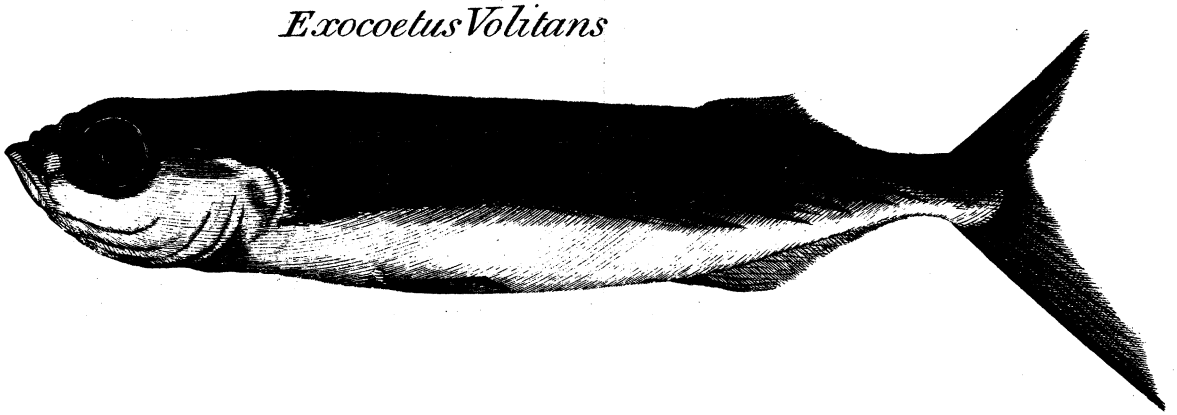
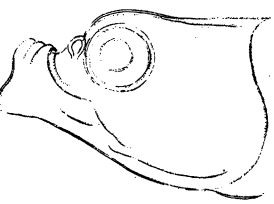
Exocoetus Volitans





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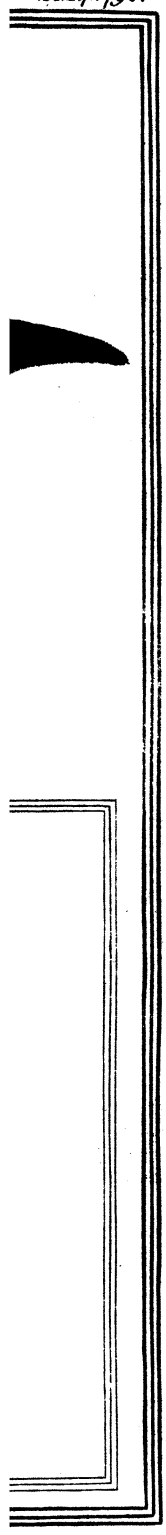
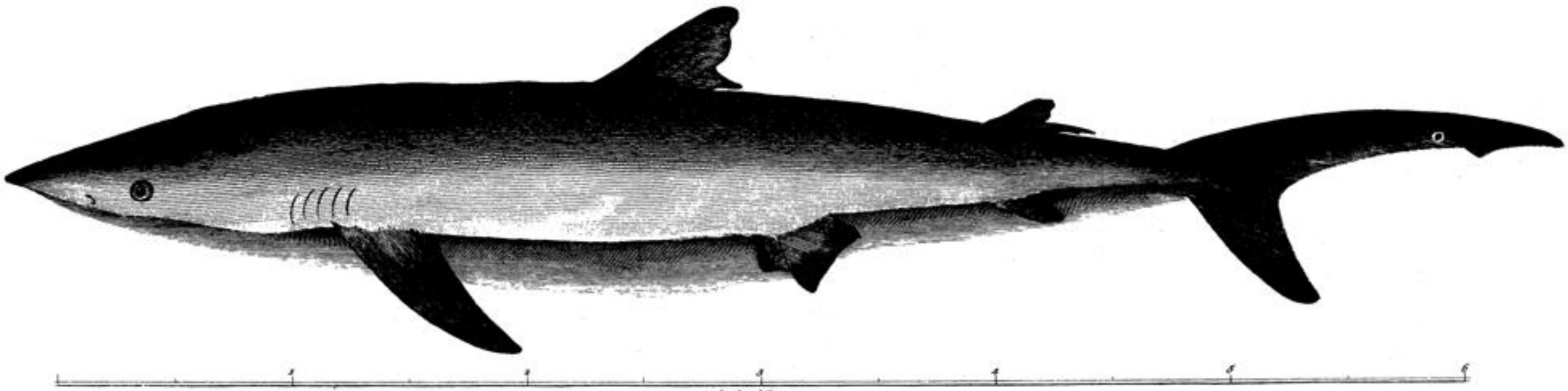
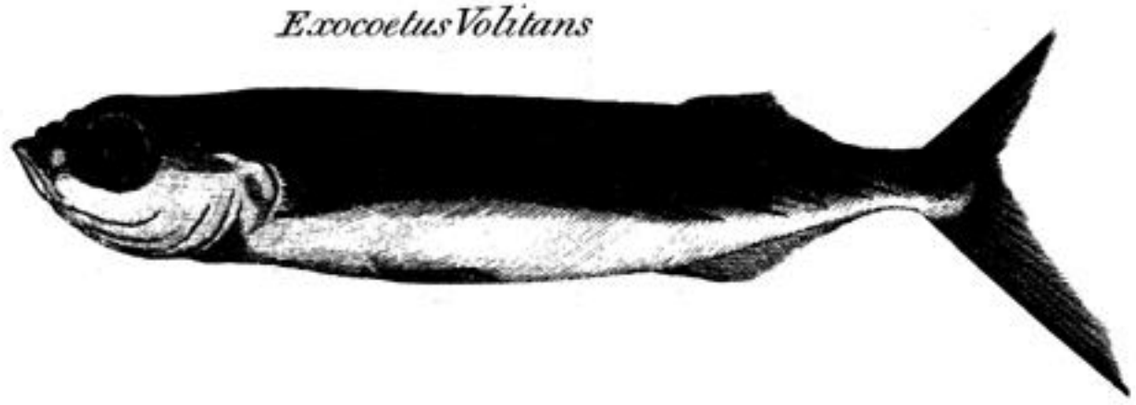


Squalus Glaucus



Scale of Feet.

Exocoetus Volitans



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